

**ADOPTION THROUGH COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIPS
RFP # FAM-11-084**

COLLABORATIVE ADOPTION AGREEMENT

The purpose of this agreement is to document the commitment between the Contractor and Partner to work collaboratively to increase the adoption of children in foster care in any or all of three specific categories:

1. Children and youth with a goal of adoption, with termination of parental rights (TPR), not in a pre-adoptive home, and who can potentially be adopted within 24 months of entering foster care (i.e., children in foster care less than 15 months).
2. Children and youth who have a goal of adoption, with termination of parental rights (TPR), not in a pre-adoptive home, and who are not likely to be adopted within 24 months of their entry into foster care (i.e., children in foster care 16 months or more). These youth are at high risk of aging out of foster care due to an excessive length of stay in the foster care system.
3. Children and youth in foster homes, with the goal of adoption, with termination of parental rights (TPR), and an adoptive placement agreement has been signed but the adoption is not finalized.

Contractor: means the LDSS or the LCPA to whom a contract was awarded by VDSS.

Partner: means the LDSS or LCPA who has agreed to work with the Contractor to increase adoptions as defined by the contract proposal.

The **Virginia Department of Social Services** (Department) will arrange and provide technical assistance that will clarify:

1. The Department's philosophy and expectations regarding achieving safe, permanent and timely adoptions;
 2. The contract reporting requirements and how they will be used throughout the twelve month period of this Agreement;
 3. The use of SafeMeasures data throughout the contract period
 4. The role of the Department in supporting the Contractor and Partner to adhere to the requirements of this Contract.
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By signing the CAA, Contractors and Partners agree to:

1. Attend a technical assistance meeting with the Department's Contract Administrator and DSS Consultants within 20 days after the awarding of the contracts to discuss how to develop a plan to achieve specified outcomes.

Developing the plan will require the contractor and provider to negotiate how they will:

- Identify the specific children for whom the Contractor will identify an adoptive home;
 - Match characteristics of adoptive homes needed including negotiation of the Contractors and Partners “wants vs. needs;”
 - Assess and provide services/training to child/youth, current foster family, pre-adoptive family, etc.
 - Specify the roles and responsibilities of the Contractor and the Partner in completing milestones beginning with approving an adoptive home for a specific child, placing the child in the adoptive home and finalizing the adoption;
 - Identify a communication plan to staff cases and review progress, agree to the assignment of new cases, address challenges and further delineate roles and responsibilities;
 - Clarify decision making authority and a related process for preparing, sharing and signing off on reports, summaries, required documents, etc.;
 - Assure consistent and ongoing communication with the child/youth, current foster family, service providers, medical, educational providers, pre-adoptive family, Guardians Ad Litem (GALs), etc.
 - Comply with all federal and state regulations and policies involving child welfare work;
 - Facilitating the handling of legal proceedings;
 - Identify and agree to a dispute resolution process that can be initiated by the Contractor or the Partner LDSS(s) or LCPA(s) when a disagreement or conflict threatens to hold up the placement of a child in an adoptive home or, in any other way, a child’s timely adoption is at risk;
 - Develop a work plan benchmarking goals, objectives, projected outcomes and performance measures for a twelve (12) month period
2. Meet within 45 days of the provider being awarded a contract to develop a joint plan, including a detailed work plan, to achieve specified outcomes.
3. Attend all regularly scheduled and additional meetings when required by VDSS.

Contractor Signature

Date

Partner Signature

Date